



Particulate Matter is in the Air

Information from Internet

Particulate matter (PM) is sometimes known as particle pollution. There are 2 types of PM: 1) Particles which are larger than 2.5 micrometers but smaller than 10, and 2) Particles that are 2.5 microns or smaller. Our concern is definitely with the smaller particles. They are so small that you can easily breathe them into your lungs, deep into your lungs where they might cause trouble.

The human hair is about 70 microns in diameter, so think how small 2.5 microns are.

If we were near a mine or power plant, or any kind of chemical plant, then particulate matter would be more of an everyday concern. Living in the rural areas does have some advantages.

The particle pollution com-

bines with liquid droplets to form several kinds of components such as acids, organic chemicals, soil and dust particles. You may have heard of acid rain, but sometimes harmful chemicals can be in the dust stirred up on dirt roads, or possibly in the wind blown dust that comes from open fields. It all depends upon what kind of particle pollution has fallen recently from the sky. The closer you are to power plants and things of that nature, the more likely your local dust may contain harmful contaminants, though farm chemicals can contribute to PM.

In addition, particulate matter can be spewed into the upper atmosphere by volcanoes or other natural phenomena, and it can circle the globe for days and weeks before settling on the ground. This is how a lot of

places acquire mercury deposition, from volcano outgassing. Coal combustion by man is the main contributor of mercury deposition.

Particulate matter is a greater health risk for older adults, though children with still developing lungs can be at risk too. We are not trying to alarm you; we are trying to inform you that it exists, it can be harmful, but the risks to us are relatively low. EPA monitors many of these particles and issue alerts accordingly. Be thankful, and enjoy our air.

COMMUNITY CLEANUP IN SEPTEMBER

The next community cleanup on the reservation will be during the last week of September, from September 28 thru October 2nd. The dates we will serve your area will be posted.

As always, if you need assistance removing objects from your house, then call us at 486-2601 ext: 2, so that we can inform our workers to get to your house.

If you need no assistance, then pile your waste objects near the curb where we can easily see and get to them. We can accept no chemicals, pesticides, or hazardous wastes. We can't accept lead-based paint or tires. Call us at the forementioned number if you have any questions at all.



**KICKAPOO
ENVIRONMENTAL
OFFICE**

Phone: 785-486-
2601

1107 Goldfinch Rd

***Located Next to
the Tribal Office
of the Kickapoo
Tribe in Kansas***

Results of E-waste Collection Event

Everything that you see in this picture was recycled as e-waste on August 24, 2009. There are 6 old copy machines there and about 40 computer monitors. There are oodles and oodles of component pieces, as well as 15 televisions, fax machines, printer, and so on. Much of this material came from Tribal offices and the Golden Eagle Casino. Very little of it came from tribal residents.

This was the first ever e-waste collection event held on the reservation, and it accumulated much material. Thanks for your participation and support.



ORGANIC vs. CONVENTIONALLY GROWN FOODS

Information derived from US News and World Report

If you had all the money in the world, what would you eat: organic or conventionally grown foods?

A growing number of people would pick organic food, but the fact is there is no nutritional difference between organic and inorganic foods. A conventional carrot has the same nutrition as an organic carrot. It's a myth that many people believe organic foods are more nutritious than other foods. They're not. You will pay more for organic foods, and they are less available at your grocer's, but they are more available now than they were 10 years ago.

The tests show that there are little to no differences in nutrients between these foods, so most people are paying for the treatment of the foods. Organic foods, of course, are grown without chemical fertilizers or pesticides. This makes for a fruit or vegetable that is cleaner and free of pesky pesticides. You can pay a bit more for that feature, while the rest of us will have to wash our foods more diligently.

Either type of food is still susceptible to e coli contamination, or some other contaminate. Either type of food can become a consumer hazard and be subject to recall.

The pesticide issue is significant for children. A study found pesticide residue in the urine of kids eating conventionally grown fruit, and this residue decreased after 5 days on an organic diet. Without pesticides, however, the worms will take over the orchard. Something to think about.

